2026 IBRAHIM INDEX
OF AFRICAN GOVERNANCE

2026 IIAG

—

Methodology, Indicator definitions & sources, Data publications

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Methodology

INTRODUCTION TO THE IIAG

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) provides a biennial statistical assessment of governance performance in 54 African countries.

Data from diverse sources are combined into composite governance scores – an *Overall Governance* score, categories, sub-categories, clustered indicators, as well as clustered sub-indicators. The 2026 IIAG provides comparable data for the ten-year time period 2016-2025 enabling analysis of national and regional trends over time.

This document contains a detailed explanation of how the IIAG is calculated. The methodology is simple and transparent. All of the underlying data and information used in the construction of the IIAG are freely available and transparently published by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF), alongside the scores and uncertainty estimates. Given the impossibility to directly observe the nature of governance, all measures are made with error and users of the Index are encouraged to use the confidence intervals when interpreting the scores. This document will outline how MIF conceptualises governance, assumptions made, how variables are selected for inclusion, how the IIAG is calculated and how we estimate uncertainty around the scores.

MEASURING GOVERNANCE

MIF defines governance as the provision of the political, social, economic and environmental goods and services that every citizen has the right to expect from their state, and that a state has the responsibility to deliver to its citizens. The IIAG is concerned with operationalising these public goods mostly through outputs and outcomes of policy, as opposed to inputs or de jure indicators. Although the latter are selected in occasions when suitable output or outcome variables are not available. The framework of the IIAG has been constructed to reflect this definition and consists of four main pillars of governance: *Security & Rule of Law*; *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*; *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development*. These categories are comprised of 16 sub-categories. The structure of the 2026 IIAG (to sub-category level) can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1. 2026 IIAG framework (to sub-category level)

OVERALL GOVERNANCE			
SECURITY & RULE OF LAW	**PARTICIPATION, RIGHTS & INCLUSION**	**FOUNDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**	**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**
Security & Safety	Participation	Public Administration	Health
Rule of Law & Justice	Rights	Business & Labour Environment	Education
Accountability & Transparency	Inclusion & Equality	Infrastructure	Social Protection & Welfare
Anti-Corruption	Women's Equality	Rural Economy	Sustainable Environment

Each construct is operationalised as a composite indicator of its sub-components. The *Overall Governance* score is constructed by calculating an average of its underlying four categories; these categories are constructed by calculating an average of their respective sub-categories. Likewise, sub-category scores are the result of aggregating the scores of their underlying indicators. There are 96 indicators in the 2026 IIAG, 90 of which are clustered and six are standalone indicators. Indicators are formed by variables. A variable is anything that can be constituted as a raw data from source. There are 319 variables collected to calculate the 2026 IIAG. In total, the 2026 Index contains 489 measures of governance (taking into account the variables collected from source as well as every composite score provided in the IIAG dataset).

The underlying 319 Index variables draw on a mix of quantitative measures and numerically coded qualitative assessments, collected from 51 African and international data sources. Quantitative measures capture directly observable outcomes, such as *Pupil-Qualified Teacher Ratio in Primary Education*. Other variables translate qualitative evidence into numerical scores, e.g. expert assessments of *Access to Justice* based on defined criteria and supported by contextual analysis. Combining these different types of evidence allows the IIAG to capture aspects of governance that are inherently more difficult to quantify, such as the quality, effectiveness or implementation of institutions and policies.

TECHNICAL ASSUMPTIONS

The central assumption is that each indicator score is the true value of its respective sub-category score plus or minus some error. Each constituent indicator measures something specific – for example *Education Enrolment* – but when included in a sub-category together with other indicators, it is expected to measure a broader concept; in this case whether a country has a comprehensive education system. In some countries which have high education enrolment rates, completion rates may be a lot lower because of the lack of adequate support systems for students at risk of dropping out, and therefore enrolment rates may overestimate the adequacy of education provided in a country. It is this misestimation which is captured in the error term, as discussed further in the section on uncertainty estimates.

The IIAG makes the assumption of independence across indicator errors. This is illustrated in the *Civil Registration* and *Budgetary & Financial Management* indicators from the *Public Administration* sub-category. Both indicators misestimate *Public Administration* by some amount, but because the indicators come from different sources – in the case of *Civil Registration*: from the Africa Integrity Indicators from the African Institute for Development Policy; in the case of *Budgetary & Financial Management*: from the Country Policy and Institutional Assessments from the African Development Bank and the World Bank – there is no reason to suppose that when one indicator misestimates *Public Administration* the other indicator will do the same. It is assumed that the errors are not related and will cancel each other out when the indicators are aggregated. The more indicators are added the more likely it is that the errors sum to zero. Any correlation between indicators arises as a result of a latent governance dimension. This misestimation is elaborated in greater detail in the section on uncertainty estimates.

VARIABLE SELECTION & CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

To be included in the IIAG, a variable has to be linked to MIF's definition of governance and should preferably measure outputs and outcomes of governance, not inputs or *de jure* measures. For example, to measure the level of education in a country, the indicator *Education Quality* is used, as opposed to expenditures made by a government on education. Further considerations around inclusion of a variable include its methodological soundness, timeliness and accessibility, as well as the credibility of the data provider.

For each dataset under consideration, missing data is a large issue. In particular, the number of African countries covered by each dataset in a certain year, the number of years covered, the periodicity of the data and the most recent year of published data are all parameters which impact the precision of the composite scores.

Furthermore, comparability across countries and over time is fundamental. Data should be based on common concepts, definitions, classifications, and methodology. For this reason, data collected nationally (e.g. by a government agency) which are not internationally comparable cannot be used.

Given these considerations, to be included in the IIAG, a variable must have at least two years' worth of data since the beginning of the time series (2016 in the case of the 2026 IIAG dataset, these two data points must be distinct, and the latest data point must exist within the last three years (2023-2025 in the case of the 2026 IIAG dataset). These conditions must be met for 33 African countries. Furthermore, all selected variables exist on a five-point scale or higher to ensure numerical granularity and differentiate meaningfully between country scores.

When a variable is deemed to be suitable for inclusion, it is assigned to the sub-category in which it sits best conceptually. As dimensions of governance are not independent and variables may be deemed to be suitable for multiple sub-categories, this process goes through an additional stage of consultation with the IIAG Expert Panel, a group of expert advisors.

Following advice from the European Commission's Competence Centre on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards (CC-COIN), some additional guiding principles when selecting variables for the 2026 IIAG framework were the following:

- Missingness: The percentage of values missing from a variable should not overcome 20% in a year. Minimising the amount of missing values leads to a lower proportion of imputed data points and helps ensure that country sub-category scores are not dependent on a single variable.
- Correlation structure: The level of correlation for every variable/indicator should be higher than 0.3 with every level of the index (variables, sub-indicators, indicators, sub-categories, categories, Index).
- Correlation structure: There should be no cases of low correlation between variable/indicator and higher levels of the Index.
- Correlation structure: There should be no cases of redundant variables/indicators and/or highly correlated with every level of the Index that are of no added value for the overall Index.
- Principal Component Analysis (PCA): The percentage of variance explained by the first principal component should be ideally higher or equal to 70%. In cases failing this, alternate frameworks were trialed to maximise the result while maintaining conceptual coherence.

In Annex 1, a full variable selection tree is provided.

OUTLIERS & TREATMENT

In some instances, a variable includes observations which lie far away from the mass of the rest of the distribution. Including these extreme observations in the IIAG would bias the measure scores as, after normalisation, the outliers would make the range skewed and differentiation between most of the countries' scores would be difficult. To prevent this, the raw data is analysed to determine whether any of the variables require treatment to address outliers.

MIF uses a lopsidedness approach designed to identify variables with unusually long tails relative to the main body of the distribution. The method evaluates both the magnitude and length of the right and le tails using quartiles, the interquartile range (IQR) and the median. Tail lengths are calculated as the ratio between the maximum or minimum and the median over the IQR. Tail volumes are calculated as the ratio between the top and bottom quartiles over the rest of the distribution:

$$\text{Right tail length} = \frac{\text{maximum - median}}{\text{IQR}}$$

$$\text{Left tail length} = \frac{\text{median - minimum}}{\text{IQR}}$$

$$\text{Right tail volume} = \frac{\text{maximum - 3}^{\text{rd}}\text{ quartile}}{\text{3}^{\text{rd}}\text{ quartile - minimum}}$$

$$\text{Left tail volume} = \frac{\text{1}^{\text{st}}\text{ quartile - minimum}}{\text{maximum - 1}^{\text{st}}\text{ quartile}}$$

A variable is flagged as containing outliers when:

$$\text{Right tail length} > 10 \text{ AND } \text{Right tail volume} > 5 \text{ OR}$$
$$\text{Left tail length} > 10 \text{ AND } \text{Left tail volume} > 5$$

In the 2026 IIAG, 13 variables were treated for outliers: *Absence of Violent Events in State-Based Conflicts*, *Absence of Violent Events in Non-State Conflict*, *Absence of Government Violence against Civilians*, *Absence of Non-State Actor Violence against Civilians*, *Absence of Refugees*, *Internet Speed*, *Cost of Broadband Internet*, *Internet Security*, *Pupil-Qualified Teacher Ratio in Primary Education*, *Affordable Urban Housing*, *Sustainable Agriculture*, *Control of Primary Forest Loss* and *Marine Protected Areas*.

Of these 13, six variables *(Absence of Violent Events in State-Based Conflicts*, *Absence of Violent Events in Non-State Conflict*, *Absence of Government Violence against Civilians*, *Absence of Non-State Actor Violence against Civilians*, *Internet Speed* and *Pupil-Qualified Teacher Ratio)* were treated using square root power transformation with a factor of 1/2. One variable *(Absence of Refugees)* was treated using cube root power transformation with a factor of 1/3. These factors were chosen because they were the mildest of the common factors used in power transformation (1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 0, 2) which made the variables in question pass the tail outlier test.

All other variables *(Cost of Broadband Internet, Internet Security*, *Affordable Urban Housing*, *Sustainable Agriculture*, *Control of Primary Forest Loss* and *Marine Protected Areas)* were treated according to the following scheme: The trimmed mean and trimmed standard deviation were computed on the central 95% of the distribution. All observations further than three trimmed standard deviations away from the trimmed mean were replaced with:

$$\text{Replacement value} = \text{Trimmed mean} \pm 3.1 * \text{Trimmed standard deviation}$$

DEALING WITH MISSING DATA

The majority of the variables included in the IIAG have a degree of missing data over the time series (2016-2025). To ensure continuity between composite scores over time, values for these years are imputed.

The imputation approach was selected following comparative testing of a range of methods, including mean substitution, regression-based and multilevel approaches, and different forms of interpolation and extrapolation. Tests in which observed data were temporarily removed and then re-estimated showed that linear interpolation provided the best balance of accuracy and precision for IIAG data, slightly outperforming mean substitution and producing more consistent estimates than more complex alternatives. Alongside its comparatively stronger performance, this approach has the advantage of being relatively simple, transparent and reproducible.

Linear interpolation is therefore used to estimate missing data in the interior of a time series. Missing values between available observations are replaced with values incrementally higher or lower than the neighbouring data points. For missing data points that are located in the exterior of a time series, the nearest available observation was deemed to be the best proxy. Hence, the exterior missing values are imputed using the closest data point from source — last value carried forward (LVCF) or first value carried backward (FVCB).

As an example, Country A has data missing for years 2016, 2019 and 2020. The second row of Table 2 contains raw data. For the interior missing values in years 2019 and 2020, linear interpolation is used to obtain the value, as shown in the third row of Table 2. For the exterior missing value in year 2016, the missing data is imputed using FVCB to obtain the data as shown in the fourth row.

Table 2. Imputation example for Country A

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Raw data from source		85.1	84.8			82.8
Between data points		85.1	84.8	*84.1*	*83.5*	82.8
Outside data points	*85.1*	85.1	84.8	*84.1*	*83.5*	82.8

Let x be the raw data value of a variable for a country in year t. If there is no data for year t_2, and there are data for the years t_1 and t_3, whereby t_1 and t_3 are the closest years to t_2 such that $t_1<t_2<t_3$, linear interpolation can be illustrated as follows:

$$x_2 = x_1 + (t_2 - t_1) * \frac{(x_3 - x_1)}{(t_3 - t_1)}$$

Using the above formula in the previous example, a missing value in 2019 would be imputed as follows using linear interpolation:

$$84.1 = 84.8 + (2019 - 2018) * \frac{(82.8 - 84.8)}{(2021 - 2018)}$$

Exceptions

Linear interpolation is only applied where there is sufficient source data to provide a reasonable basis for estimation. Where no source data is available for a country across the full time series of a variable, no imputation is carried out. Where only one observation is available, the country-variable series is excluded, as linear interpolation requires at least two observed values and carrying a single value forward and backward would effectively assume no change over time without supporting evidence. Hence, the IIAG variable inclusion criteria of requiring at least two observations helps reduce the risk of inaccurate or misleading estimates.

NORMALISATION

Data used in the construction of the IIAG are diverse and include both quantitative and qualitative assessments provided by a range of data providers. At source, the variables collected are produced on different scales and can also have different polarities (e.g. in raw data terms, while for *Private Property Rights* a higher score is better, for *Absence of Government Violence against Civilians* a higher score is worse). In order for them to be meaningfully combined and compared, raw data is standardised before being included in the IIAG.

The data points for each variable are transformed using the min-max normalisation method. This method performs an order-preserving linear transformation of the data, in which the maximum value in the raw data becomes the highest score and the minimum value in the raw data becomes the lowest score for each variable.

The min-max normalisation method subtracts from the actual value the minimum value of the entire raw dataset (2016-2025) in the specific variable and divides by the range of the variable values. The scores for each country's value in a particular year, where the polarity of the raw data is 'higher value is better', are transformed as follows:

$$x = 100 * \frac{\text{actual value} - \text{minimum raw value}}{\text{maximum raw value} - \text{minimum raw value}}$$

If the polarity of the raw data is 'higher value is worse', the scores must be inverted. Therefore, the previous formula must be altered as follows:

$$x = 100\text{-}100 * \frac{\text{actual value} - \text{minimum raw value}}{\text{maximum raw value} - \text{minimum raw value}}$$

This method of standardisation allows all scores to be published in common units and within the same bounds of 0.0-100.0, in which 100.0 reflects the best performance in Africa across the ten years. 100.0 does not imply perfect governance but indicates the best score in Africa according to the raw data. Thus, meaningful comparisons between variables and countries can be made. Other advantages of this method include preserving the skewness and kurtosis and not making any assumptions about the distribution of the data.

AGGREGATION & WEIGHTING

To aggregate underlying variables into clustered sub-indicators, indicators, sub-categories, categories and the overall Index, the IIAG uses arithmetic means, i.e. a higher measure is made up of the average of its underlying measures. The decision to weight the four overarching categories equally in the IIAG was taken based on the judgment that the four governance dimensions of the IIAG – *Security & Rule of Law*; *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*; *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development* — are of equal importance in measuring governance.

While the weight of the categories and sub-categories is equal in the *Overall Governance* composite score, indicators and underlying variables have different implicit weighting as a result of the structure of the IIIAG: The number of indicators per sub-category ranges from from four to seven, with the majority of sub-categories containing six indicators. This effectively means that each of the indicators of sub-categories such as *Sustainable Environment*, which only has five underlying indicators, contribute more to the *Overall Governance* score than those of sub-categories such as *Health*, which has seven underlying indicators.

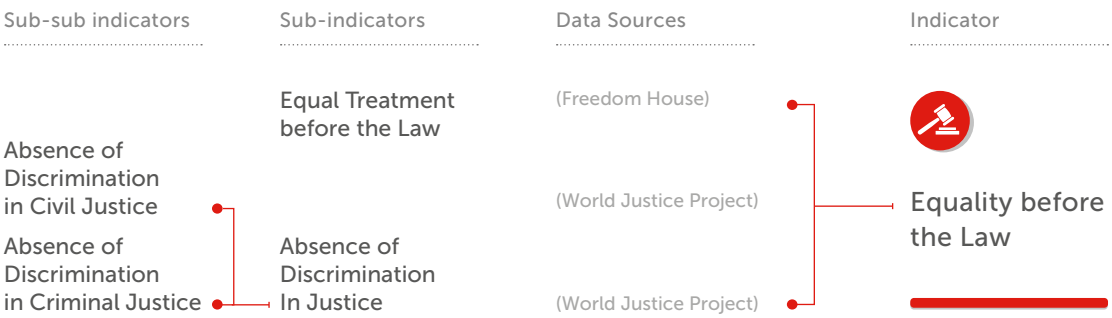
CLUSTERING

The underlying 319 variables included in the IIAG are constituents of 96 indicators, 90 of which are clustered indicators. A clustered indicator or a sub-indicator is composed of a number of underlying variables which capture the same dimension.

The data included in the IIAG comes from 51 different institutions and are a mix of quantitative and qualitative assessments. The diversity of sources and types of data means the measurement error in the composite values is minimised. A measure can be clustered as a result of similar variables being available from multiple sources or when different variables can be considered a proxy for the same wider concept.

For example, variables measuring narrow concepts such as *Absence of Discrimination in Civil Justice* and *Absence of Discrimination in Criminal Justice*, collected from the World Justice Project, are clustered together to create the *Absence of Discrimination in Justice* sub-indicator. In turn, this sub-indicator is clustered together with the sub-indicator *Equal Treatment before the Law*, collected from Freedom House, to create the indicator *Equality before the Law*, as seen below in Table 3.

Table 3. Clustering example for *Equality before the Law*



QUANTIFYING UNCERTAINTY

The Foundation publishes standard errors and confidence intervals alongside the *Overall Governance* and category scores to reflect degrees of uncertainty. The standard errors and confidence intervals allow users of the IIAG to discriminate, to a certain degree, between changes in the values of the IIAG that can be confidently treated as actual changes in the state of governance and changes that might be due to "noise", or are at least insufficiently sizeable to be able to ascribe a high likelihood to such change being statistically significant. Users of the IIAG are encouraged to use these to interpret changes in country scores over time and differences between country scores. For example, score or rank comparisons between countries with overlapping confidence intervals should generally be avoided as they represent a statistical tie. Similarly, users are encouraged not to over interpret marginal differences in a country's score change and refer to the confidence intervals for statistically significant movements.

Standard errors

For previous IIAG iterations, the method that has been used to calculate the standard errors was based on a process called *Bootstrapping*. It relies on creating multiple new versions of the dataset, by replacing values of measures with other values from the dataset (allowing for duplicates). It is a very common method and has the advantage of not making assumptions on the distribution of the data.

Bootstrapping, however, has been criticised. The bootstrap process is done at the sub-category level. Consequently, it will only have up to seven indicator values (or fewer for different sub-categories or when data is missing) to bootstrap from, which is likely to produce standard errors that will underestimate the true standard deviation of the scores.

Another issue with bootstrapping is its lack of replicability because of the random nature of the selection of values for the creation of resampled datasets. As such if an external party were to calculate the standard errors themselves, even if they followed the methodology to write their own bootstrapping algorithm, they would not be able to arrive at the same results.

Additionally, since bootstrapping is done with replacement, in the presence of missing values, the resampled datasets may not have the same amount and/or the same positions of missingness as the original dataset, which could also lead to incorrect estimating of the true standard errors.

The MIF Research Team has worked with Prof. Ali Hadi, a longstanding member of the IIAG Expert Panel, to implement a new standard error calculation method, which solves some of the issues related to bootstrapping. The new method is theoretically-based and replicable (that is, it does not depend on the re-sampling methodologies as does the Bootstrap). Since it is given in a closed-form equation, it drastically cuts down the time needed for the programme to run. Additionally, the resultant standard errors are more accurate than those provided by the Bootstrap.

Theoretically, the computations of the standard errors of the index or sub-index depend on what assumption one is willing to make about the covariance matrix of the index data. If $x = (x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_d)$ represents *d* variables or indictors in a sub-category or a category of the index data. For example, a simplifying assumption is that the variables for country *i* in year *t* are uncorrelated and have possibly different variances, which depend on both country *i* and year *t*. A justification of this assumption is that the data comes from different sources. But since they are measurements of basically the same underlying concept, they should be correlated. Under this assumption, however, the standard error of the index for country *i* in year *t*, y_{it}, can be estimated by:

$$SE(y_{it}) = \frac{s_{it}}{\sqrt{d}} \qquad i = 1, 2, \cdots, n, \qquad t = 1, 2, \cdots T$$

from which a $(1 - \alpha)$ 100% confidence bands for $E(y_{it})$ can be computed as:

$$[y_{it} \pm z_{\alpha/2} SE(y_{it})] \qquad i = 1, \cdots, n, \qquad t = 1, \cdots, T$$

Confidence intervals

Standard errors are used to construct confidence intervals across all higher-level composite measures of the Index (*Overall Governance*, the four categories and the 16 sub-categories). Four different degrees of confidence are available across all MIF IIAG publications: 80%, 85%, 90% and 95%). Confidence intervals are calculated using the critical values (Z-scores) from the standard normal distribution, whereby for 80% Z=1.282, for 85% Z=1.440, for 90% Z=1.645 and for 95% Z=1.960.

$$x_2 = x_1 \pm Z * \text{standard error}$$

READING THE RESULTS

Historical revision

The IIAG is refined and revised on a biennial basis to continually improve its measurement of governance. Improvements are a result of either methodological changes, or based on the inclusion of new data. Equally, if previously included measures undergo fundamental methodological changes or do not meet the criteria for inclusion it may be necessary to exclude them from future iterations. It is also necessary to update previously published data if retrospective revisions are made to data at source.

As a result of these changes, the IIAG is collected and re-calculated every two years for the last decade (in the case of the 2026 IIAG that is 2016-2025). The retrospective revision means that **no previous publications should be compared to the 2026 IIAG scores** as differences may be a result of a change in framework or an update in data from source rather than due to a change in score. **Score and rank comparisons between years should be made entirely within the 2026 IIAG.**

Relativity

The IIAG country scores and ranks are all relative, taking into account a country's performance in relation to the other 54 African countries. This is a result of the normalisation procedure, which transforms the raw data into a scale of 0.0-100.0, whereby 100.0 is the best score. This means that a country's change in score and rank may be reflective of other countries performing better or worse. Users of the IIAG are encouraged to treat marginal differences in scores and ranks with caution and refer to the standard errors for statistically significant changes.

Scores, ranks, changes and trends

Four main criteria can be used to analyse the performance of a country or a governance measure: latest year score, latest year rank, change over the past decade and trend over that decade. Rounded to one decimal point in all final IIAG datasets and analyses, scores quantify a country's performance for each governance measure for each data year, expressed out of 100.0 (with 100.0 being the best score). Ranks are calculated based on the respective scores and are expressed out of 54. When two or more countries have the same score, they share the same place in the ranking table (tied ranks). For the average scores of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), ranks are expressed out of eight. Ten-year changes quantify the difference in score between the last and the first data years of the decade under review. The 2026 IIAG ten-year changes compare the country's performance reached in 2025 to the one reached in 2016.

Trends are a fourth layer of analysis, complementing scores, ranks and ten-year changes. The IIAG trends serve to assess the trajectory of a country or governance measure over the decade, by comparing the average rate of change over the latest five years (2021-2025) to that of the full decade (2016-2025). This comparison helps identify early signs of the direction and pace of country trajectories. Table 4 below gives an overview of the IIAG trends and characteristics.

Table 4: 2026 IIAG trends and characteristics

Trend	Characteristic
Increasing Improvement	Score is better in 2025 compared to 2016, with the rate of improvement increasing since 2021.
Slowing Improvement	Score is better in 2025 compared to 2016, but the rate of improvement is slowing since 2021.
Warning Signs	Score is better/no change in 2025 compared to 2016, but showing decline since 2021.
Bouncing Back	Score is worse/no change in 2025 compared to 2016, but showing progress since 2021.
Slowing Deterioration	Score is worse in 2025 compared to 2016, but the rate of deterioration is slowing since 2021.
Increasing Deterioration	Score is worse in 2025 compared to 2016, with the rate of deterioration increasing since 2021.
No Change	Score has not changed at all over the decade 2016-2025.
Not Classified	Data is missing so trend cannot be assessed.

Trends are determined by comparing year-on-year average changes over the whole series (2016-2025) and over the last half of the decade (2021-2025). These ten-year annual average trends (AAT10) and five-year annual average trend (AAT5) are calculated by dividing the score difference by the number of years over which it took place:

$$AAT10 = \frac{Score_{2025} - Score_{2016}}{9} \qquad AAT5 = \frac{Score_{2025} - Score_{2021}}{4}$$

To assign the trends, the following criteria are used:

Increasing Improvement	=	$AAT10 > 0$ AND $AAT5 > 0$ AND $AAT10 < AAT5$
Slowing Improvement	=	$AAT10 > 0$ AND $AAT5 > 0$ AND $AAT10 > AAT5$ OR $Score_{2025} = 100$ AND $Score_{2021} = 100$ AND $AAT10 > 0$
Warning Signs	=	$AAT10 > 0$ AND $AAT5 < 0$ OR $AAT10 = 0$ AND $AAT5 < 0$ OR $AAT10 > 0$ AND $AAT5 = 0$
Bouncing Back	=	$AAT10 < 0$ AND $AAT5 > 0$ OR $AAT10 < 0$ AND $AAT5 = 0$ OR $AAT10 = 0$ AND $AAT5 > 0$
Slowing Deterioration	=	$AAT10 < 0$ AND $AAT5 < 0$ AND $AAT10 < AAT5$ OR $Score_{2025} = 0$ AND $Score_{2021} = 0$ AND $AAT10 < 0$
Increasing Deterioration	=	$AAT10 < 0$ AND $AAT5 < 0$ AND $AAT10 > AAT5$
No Change	=	$AAT10 = 0$ AND $AAT5 = 0$
Not Classified	=	scores 2016 - 2021 = n/a

In the rare instances that AAT10 and AAT5 are exactly the same, MIF classifies them as *Steady Improvement* or *Steady Deterioration*:

Steady Improvement	=	$AAT10 > 0$ AND $AAT5 > 0$ AND $AAT10 = AAT5$
Steady Deterioration	=	$AAT10 < 0$ AND $AAT5 < 0$ AND $AAT10 = AAT5$

Annex: Variable selection tree

A. Conceptual framework

1. Is the variable linked to MIF's definition of governance?

- Yes, the concept is defined in a way that captures the governance aspect. When "proxy" series are used, there needs to be evidence of their relationship with "target" series.
- No, the concept is not defined in a way that captures the governance aspect.

2. Does this variable measure an input or outcome of governance?

- It preferably focuses on outcomes of governance (e.g. level of quality in education).
- It focuses on inputs of governance (e.g. laws or expenditure levels).

B. Data availability and methods

3. What are the data provider/source and its methods?

- Widely credible data source and the methods it uses are sound. Data is perceived to be objective, produced professionally in accordance with appropriate statistical standards and policies and practices are transparent.
- Not credible data source, using unknown, biased methods, or lacks rigorous data collection.

4. Is the data coherent/comparable?

- Yes, coherence/comparability over time and across countries can be ensured. Data is based on common concepts, definitions, classifications, and methodology, and any differences are explained and can be accounted for.
- No, coherence/comparability over time and across countries cannot be ensured. Incoherence over time refers to breaks in a series resulting from changes in concepts, definitions, or methodology. Data collected nationally (e.g. by a government agency) which is not internationally comparable cannot be used.

5. Can we expect the variable to be discontinued any time soon?

- No, the source plans to keep producing the data, maintaining its operationalisation/methodology.
- Yes, the source plans to stop producing the data, or change its operationaliation/methodology.

6. What is the country coverage?

- It covers at least 33 African countries.
- It covers fewer than 33 African countries.

7. How many data points are there at the country level?

- There are at least 33 African countries with two distinct data points from source since the beginning of the time series (2016 in the case of the 2026 IIAG dataset).
- There are fewer than 33 African countries with two data points from source since the beginning of the time series (2016 in the case of the 2026 IIAG dataset).

8. How old is the latest data point at the country level?

There are at least 33 African countries whose latest data point is no more than three years old (2023-2025 in the case of the 2026 IIAG dataset).

There are fewer than 33 African countries whose latest data point is no more than three years old (2023-2025 in the case of the 2026 IIAG dataset).

9. What is the level of missingness? (Data coverage)

The percentage of values missing from a variable does not overcome 20% in a year.

The percentage of values missing from a variable overcomes 20% in a year.

10. What is the numerical granularity of the variable's raw data?

Raw data from source comes on a four-point scale or more, which is essential to meaningfully distinguish country performance.

Raw data from source comes on less than a four-point scale.

C. Statistical/internal structure

11. How does the variable correlate with other components/levels?

The variable has a correlation coefficient higher than 0.30 with every level of the index (variables, sub-indicators, indicators, sub-categories, categories, index).

The variable has a correlation lower than 0.30 or is negatively correlated with higher levels of the index (the indicator, sub-category or category in which the variable sits).
The variable is redundant and/or highly correlated with every level of the index (other components at the same level, as well as higher levels of the index).

Indicator definitions & sources

SECURITY & RULE OF LAW	
SECURITY & SAFETY	
Absence of Armed Conflict (ACLED/UCDP)	This indicator measures the number of violent events in both state-based and non-state-based conflicts as well as the number of non-state-based armed conflicts within a country.
Absence of Violence against Civilians (ACLED/PTS)	This indicator measures the number of violent events against civilians committed by government forces and non-state actors, as well as the level of political violence and terror in a country.
Absence of Forced Migration (IDMC/UNHCR)	This indicator measures the total stock of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the number of refugees fleeing a country.
Absence of Human Trafficking & Forced Labour (ENACT/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which human trafficking activity and forced labour are prevalent in a country.
Absence of Crime (ENACT/WHO)	This indicator assesses the extent of organised crime and the homicide rate in a country.
Public Perception of Security & Safety (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel safe walking in their neighbourhood, public trust in the police and military, as well as the extent to which citizens feel the government is doing well at reducing crime.
RULE OF LAW & JUSTICE	
Executive Compliance with the Rule of Law (V-DEM/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which the executive respects the constitution, the government complies with decisions by the courts and transitions of power are subject to the law.
Impartiality of the Judicial System (AFIDEP/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which the judicial system is impartial based on the independence of the courts, the autonomy of judges, and the appointment of judges.
Judicial Processes (V-DEM/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which justice is accessible and affordable, due process of law and rights of the accused are guaranteed, trials are timely, and justice is enforced effectively.
Equality before the Law (FH/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there is equality before the law and civil and criminal justice systems are impartial and free of discrimination.
Law Enforcement (AFIDEP/WEF/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which the police are reliable, subject to effective misconduct investigations and sanctioning, and the criminal investigation and prosecutorial system is functional.
Property Rights (BS/V-DEM/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which private property rights are guaranteed and enjoyed by citizens.
Public Perception of the Rule of Law (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel that the head of the executive does not ignore the courts and laws and the extent to which citizens feel that they are treated equally under the law.
ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY	
Institutional Checks & Balances (BS/V-DEM/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there is a separation of powers, government powers are checked upon and limited by both the legislature and the judiciary, and public office holders are sanctioned for abuse of office.
Absence of Undue Influence (AFIDEP/BS/FH)	This indicator assesses the extent to which the elected government has the effective power to govern, the government and legislature determine policies without undue influence from veto powers, and civil servants' work is not compromised by political interference.
Civic Checks & Balances (BS/V-DEM/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which effective citizen complaint mechanisms exist, citizens have the right to petition and to civic engagement, and cooperative associations, interest groups and civil society organisations (CSOs) are consulted in policymaking.
Disclosure of Public Records (AFIDEP/IBP/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which budget information is made publicly available in a timely manner, public officials and civil servants disclose their assets, and laws and judicial information are publicised.
Accessibility of Public Records (AFIDEP/UNDESA/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which records and information of interest to the public are accessible and citizens have the right to request that information, as well as the scope and quality of online services provided by the government.
Public Perception of Accountability (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel that the head of the executive does not ignore parliament and that officials who commit crimes are punished.
ANTI-CORRUPTION	
Anti-Corruption Mechanism (AFIDEP/BS)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there is an anti-corruption policy in place contributing to the containment of corruption, there is a functioning and independent anti-corruption body, and corruption allegations are investigated.
Absence of Corruption in State Institutions (V-DEM/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which corruption is absent in the judiciary, the legislature, and the executive.
Absence of Corruption in the Public Sector (V-DEM/WEF/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which public sector employees (including the police and military) do not engage in corruption and administrative processes are free from bribery.

Public Procurement Procedures (AFIDEP/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there are competitive bidding procedures for public procurement, government procurement is free from corruption, and companies found guilty of violating the law are excluded from participating in future bidding.
Absence of Corruption in the Private Sector (WB/WEF)	This indicator assesses the extent to which individuals/companies do not engage in corrupt activities to conduct business.
Public Perception of Anti-Corruption (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel that the head of the executive, members of parliament, government officials, and the police are not involved in corruption, as well as citizens' satisfaction with how the government is doing at fighting government corruption.
PARTICIPATION, RIGHTS & INCLUSION	
PARTICIPATION	
Freedom of Association & Assembly (AFIDEP/FH)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens can associate and assemble freely.
Political Pluralism (AFIDEP/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which political parties are free to operate and have equal access to state-owned media and public financing for campaigns.
Civil Society Space (AFIDEP/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are free to establish and operate and are free from repression and persecution.
Democratic Elections (AFIDEP/CDD-Ghana/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which elections are free and fair and the extent to which election monitoring bodies and agencies are independent and have operating capacity, including for reporting.
Deliberative & Participatory Governance (V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which, prior to policy changes, political elites acknowledge and respect counterarguments, provide public, reasoned and common good considerations, and hold a wide range of consultation at elite levels.
Public Perception of Political Participation (AFR)	This indicator assesses whether citizens were able to vote in the last national election and to what extent they considered it free and fair, trust the electoral commission, and think that political pluralism is beneficial.
RIGHTS	
Personal Liberties (FH/V-DEM/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens enjoy freedom of movement, personal social freedoms, and the right to privacy.
Freedom of Expression & Belief (FH/V-DEM/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens enjoy freedom of expression, academic freedom, and freedom of religion and belief.
Media Freedom (AFIDEP/RSF/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which the legislative framework and the political, economic, and sociocultural contexts allow journalists to do their work freely, as well as the extent to which there are abuses against media and against journalists in connection with their work.
Digital Freedom (AFIDEP/DSP&V-DEM/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent of internet and social media shutdowns, the protection of internet users' privacy, and the extent to which people are free to express themselves online and there is no limited access to online content.
Protection against Discrimination (AFIDEP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there are official functioning mechanisms to protect citizens against ethnic, religious, and sexual orientation-based discrimination.
Public Perception of Freedom of Speech (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel free to say what they think.
INCLUSION & EQUALITY	
Equal Political Power (V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which political power is distributed by socioeconomic position, sexual orientation, social group, and urban-rural location.
Equal Political Representation (FH/IPU/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which various segments of the population have political rights and electoral opportunities and to which extent disadvantaged social groups and youth (age 40 years and under) are represented in the legislature.
Equal Civil Liberties (V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which the enjoyment of civil liberties is equal by region, income level, social group, political group, and urban-rural location.
Equal Socioeconomic Opportunities (AFIDEP/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which state jobs and business opportunities are equally accessible regardless of income level, social group, or urban-rural location, and there are programmes dedicated to the socioeconomic integration of youth.
Equal Access to Public Services (V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which access to basic public services is distributed equally by socioeconomic position, social group, political group and urban-rural location.
Public Perception of Inclusion & Equality (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel their ethnic group is treated fairly by the government and would dislike having people of a different ethnic group, different religion, or homosexuals as neighbours.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY	
Political Power & Representation of Women (AFIDEP/IPU&UNWomen/ V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which political power is distributed by gender and measures the proportion of women in the executive, in the legislature, and the highest branch of the judiciary.
Rights & Civil Liberties for Women (V-DEM/WB)	This indicator assesses the extent to which women enjoy the same level of civil liberties and property rights as men and are free to participate in civil society organisations, as well as the extent to which women's civil society organisations are free to operate.
Socioeconomic Opportunity for Women (AFIDEP/V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which state jobs and business opportunities are equally accessible regardless of gender and women receive equal pay, benefits and treatment to men in the workplace.
Access to Public Services for Women (V-DEM)	This indicator assesses the extent to which access to basic public services, such as order and security, primary education, clean water, and healthcare, are distributed equally according to gender.
Laws on Violence against Women (WB)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there are laws and regulations on violence against women by assessing whether there is legislation on sexual harassment in employment, whether there are criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment, whether the law is free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband, whether there is legislation specifically addressing domestic violence, and whether a woman can obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man.
Public Perception of Female Leadership (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens believe women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.
FOUNDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	
Civil Registration (AFIDEP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which birth and death certificates are available within 30 days and free of charge.
Capacity of the Statistical System (AFIDEP/ODW/V-DEM/WB)	This indicator assesses the capacity of a country's statistical system, the extent of statistical data coverage and openness, the independence of national statistics offices (NSOs), and the government's cyber security capacity.
Effective Administration (AfDB/AFIDEP/V-DEM/WB)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there is an effective and professional public administration.
Tax & Revenue Mobilisation (AfDB/UNU-WIDER/WB)	This indicator measures a country's taxation capacity and assesses the efficiency of its revenue mobilisation.
Budgetary & Financial Management (AfDB/WB)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there is a comprehensive and credible budget linked to policy priorities, effective financial management systems, and timely and accurate accounting and fiscal reporting.
Public Perception of Easiness to Obtain and Identity Document (AFR)	This indicator assesses citizens' perceptions of how easy it is to obtain the identity documents they need.
BUSINESS & LABOUR ENVIRONMENT	
Regional Integration (AfDB/AfDB&AUC/UNCTAD)	This indicator assesses the extent of government's development of regional integration, the extent of a country's intra-African trade, and its visa openness towards other African countries.
Economic Diversification (OEC/UNCTAD)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there is a diversification of exports and the extent of a country's economic complexity.
Business & Competition Regulations (AfDB/BS/WB)	This indicator assesses the extent to which a country's regulatory environment helps private businesses and the extent to which safeguards are enforced to protect competition.
Access to Banking Services (IMF/WB)	This indicator measures the extent to which the population has access to bank branches, ATMs, and financial institution accounts as well as the usage of mobile money services.
Labour Relations (AFIDEP/ITUC/WEF)	This indicator assesses the extent to which labour-employer relations are generally cooperative, workers are free to organise into trade unions, and countries comply with collective labour rights.
Secure Employment Opportunities (ILO/WB)	This indicator measures the extent to which employed persons are not living in poverty and are not in vulnerable employment.
Public Perception of Economic Opportunities (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel the government is doing well at creating jobs and their perception of the country's present economic condition.
INFRASTRUCTURE	
Transport Network (AfDB/WEF)	This indicator assesses the quality, coverage and efficiency of a country's transport network including road, rail and air infrastructure.
Access to Energy (WB/WHO)	This indicator measures the extent to which a country's population has access to electricity and clean cooking fuels.

Mobile Communications (ITU)	This indicator measures the extent to which mobile phones and mobile internet are accessible and affordable.
Internet (Cable/ITU/WB)	This indicator measures broadband internet pricing, internet speed and internet security.
Shipping & Postal Network (UNCTAD/UPU)	This indicator assesses a country's integration level into global shipping liner networks as well as its performance in postal development.
Public Perception of Infrastructure (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens are satisfied with how the government is doing at maintaining roads and bridges and at providing a reliable supply of electricity.
RURAL ECONOMY	
Rural Land & Water Access (IFAD)	This indicator assesses the extent to which rural people have access to land and water.
Rural Market Access (IFAD)	This indicator assesses the extent to which existing agricultural input markets and produce markets are reliably providing value for money to smallholders for inputs and the highest proportion of the retail price for produce.
Rural Economy Support (IFAD)	This indicator assesses the extent to which government strategies foster rural development and investment as well as the extent to which policy and legal frameworks create an enabling environment for the provision of rural financial services and provide access to public or private extension services for smallholder farmers.
Rural Representation & Participation (IFAD)	This indicator assesses the extent to which rural people can organise into autonomous groups and have representation and power in policy-making processes.
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	
HEALTH	
Access to Healthcare (V-DEM/WHO)	This indicator estimates how much households spend on health directly out-of-pocket and assesses the extent to which basic high-quality healthcare is guaranteed to all.
Access to Water & Sanitation (WHO&UNICEF)	This indicator measures the availability of drinking water and handwashing facilities, as well as the use of improved sanitation facilities.
Control of Communicable Diseases (UNAIDS/WHO)	This indicator measures the absence of malaria and tuberculosis deaths as well as the extent to which the HIV-positive population receive antiretroviral treatment, and children receive vaccines against measles, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and hepatitis B.
Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (IHME)	This indicator measures the years of healthy life lost (DALYs) due to metabolic risks and the death rate due to non-communicable diseases.
Child & Maternal Health (UNDESA/UNICEF&WHO&WB/ UN IGME/UN MMEIG)	This indicator measures the prevalence of child mortality and stunting among children under 5 years of age, as well as the annual number of maternal deaths and the proportion of women of reproductive age using modern contraceptive methods.
Health Quality (WHO)	This indicator measures a country's compliance with 3 out of 15 WHO International Health Regulations, namely human resources, health services provision and health emergency management.
Public Perception of Health Provision (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens are satisfied with how the government is doing at improving basic health services and water and sanitation services, and how easy it is to obtain the medical care they need.
EDUCATION	
Equality in Education (UNESCO/V-DEM)	This indicator measures the gender parity ratio in primary and lower secondary education and assesses the extent to which high-quality basic education is guaranteed to all citizens.
Education Enrolment (UNESCO)	This indicator measures the percentage of students enrolled from pre-primary to tertiary education over the corresponding eligible official school-age population for each level of education.
Education Completion (UNESCO)	This indicator measures the completion rate at primary and secondary education levels.
Human Resources in Education (UNESCO)	This indicator measures the average number of pupils per qualified teacher at primary level of education and the percentage of teachers in primary education who have received the minimum standard of training required for teaching.
Education Quality (BS/WB/WEF)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there are solid educational institutions and education policy is successful in delivering high-quality education and supports research and development, as well as the extent to which the education system meets the needs of a competitive economy and the number of expected years of learning-adjusted years of schooling.
Public Perception of Education Provision (AFR)	This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens are satisfied with how the government is doing at addressing educational needs and how easy it is to obtain the public school services they need.

SOCIAL PROTECTION & WELFARE	
Social Safety (AFIDEP/BS)	This indicator assesses the extent to which social safety nets exist to compensate for social risks of the market economy, including social safety nets for the elderly, those with an illness or health conditions, and the unemployed.
Poverty Reduction Policies (AFIDEP/BS/WB)	This indicator assesses the extent to which socioeconomic factors are not a barrier to participation in society, while also assessing the social protection, labour and welfare policies that guarantee a minimum level of welfare and ensure access to quality health and education services.
Socioeconomic Inequality Mitigation (AfDB/FFP/WB/WID)	This indicator assesses the extent to which there is equity of public resource use and income equality as well the extent to which there is no structural economic inequality.
Decent Housing (CAHF/UN-Habitat)	This indicator measures the share of the urban population living in slum households, as well as the affordability of the cheapest newly built urban housing constructed by formal developers.
Food Security (FAO)	This indicator measures the prevalence of undernourishment, the adequacy and variability of food supply, and the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity.
Public Perception of Social Protection & Lived Poverty (AFR)	This indicator assesses citizens' food, water, and cooking fuel deprivation, their perception of their present living conditions, and their satisfaction with how the government is doing at improving the living standards of the poor.
SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT	
Promotion of Environmental Sustainability (AfDB/BS/WB)	This indicator assesses the extent to which economic policy considers environmental concerns and government environmental policies foster sustainability and pollution management.
Enforcement of Environmental Policies (WEF/WJP)	This indicator assesses the extent to which environmental laws and regulations are enforced effectively.
Air Quality (HEI&IHME)	This indicator measures the ratio of disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) due to pollution both outside and inside the household.
Sustainable Use of Land & Forests (FAO/WB/WRI)	This indicator measures the extent to which land, soil and forests are used sustainably.
Land & Water Biodiversity Protection (ENACT/WB/Yale&Columbia)	This indicator measures the extent to which terrestrial biomes and marine areas are protected as well as the extent to which flora and fauna are not illegally exploited.

2026 IIAG source acronyms

Most IIAG source acronyms follow the organisations' official abbreviations, e.g. FAO or IMF. For some organisations where no official abbreviation exists, e.g. Bertelsmann Stiftung, MIF has developed its own acronyms to identify and annotate indicator and source names in various IIAG datasets and documentation.

ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy
AFR	Afrobarometer
AUC	African Union Commission
BS	Bertelsmann Stiftung
Cable	Cable
CAHF	Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa
CDD-Ghana	Ghana Center for Democratic Development
Columbia	Center for Integrated Earth System Information, Columbia University
DSP	Digital Society Project
ENACT	ENACT Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFP	Fund for Peace
FH	Freedom House
HEI	Health Effects Institute
IBP	International Budget Partnership
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IHME	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
ODW	Open Data Watch
OEC	Observatory for Economic Complexity
PTS	Political Terror Scale
RSF	Reporters sans frontières
UCDP	Uppsala Conflict Data Program
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN IGME	United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimates
UN MMEIG	United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group
UNU-WIDER	United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPU	Universal Postal Union
V-DEM	Varieties of Democracy Institute
WB	World Bank
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization
WID	World Inequality Database
WJP	World Justice Project
WRI	World Resources Institute
Yale	Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy

Data publications

The raw data for the 319 variables in the 2026 IIAG dataset is collected from 59 data publications, produced by 51 African and international data sources.

1. Africa Infrastructure Development Index (AIDI), AfDB

The AfDB's AIDI serves to monitor and evaluate the status and progress of infrastructure development across the continent, to assist in resource allocation within the framework of African Development Fund replenishments, and to contribute to policy dialogue within the Bank and between the Bank, regional member countries and other development organisations. The AIDI provides data for the years 2003-2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://dataportal.opendataforafrica.org/AIDI

2. Africa Integrity Indicators (AII), AFIDEP

In 2012, MIF commissioned Global Integrity to construct the AII, a range of expert assessments that examine how policies are implemented to support citizens, civil society, and governments as well as evaluate key social, economic, political and anti-corruption mechanisms at the national level for 54 African countries. Since 2023, data for the AII is collected and published by AFIDEP. The AII covers the years 2013-2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.africaintegrityindicators.org/

3. Africa Visa Openness Index (AVOI), AfDB & AUC

The AVOI, published jointly by the AfDB and AUC, measures the extent to which each country in Africa is open to visitors from other African countries. It analyses each country's visa requirements to show which countries on the continent most facilitate travel to their territory and provides data for 2016-2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.visaopenness.org/

4. African Electoral Index (AEI), CDD-Ghana

The AEI is an independent analysis and scoring of executive elections using expert assessment from a variety of sources, covering the years 2000-2025. Since 2016, MIF commissions CDD-Ghana with the production of the AEI based on a methodology developed at the Institut de Recherche Empirique en Économie Politique in Benin. Its methodology is made available on the MIF website. Raw data is not freely available; the full dataset was shared with MIF by the source. Raw data for the selected variables from the AEI can be found in the IIAG Excel and online data portals.

https://cddgh.org/

5. Afrobarometer Surveys, Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network conducting public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, the economy, and society since 1999. Face-to-face interviews with nationally representative population samples are rolled out on a two- to three-year cycle together with national partners, covering up to 42 countries and the years 1999-2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.afrobarometer.org/

6. AIDSinfo, UNAIDS

The AIDSinfo database is a data visualisation and dissemination tool to facilitate the use of AIDS-related data globally. It offers comprehensive, multisectoral HIV data on epidemiology, programme coverage, and finance covering over 170 countries and territories for the years 1990-2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/

7. Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED)

ACLED is an independent, impartial global monitor that collects, analyses, and maps data on conflict and protest (1997-2025). ACLED provides detailed information to help identify, understand and track patterns and trends in conflict and crisis situations around the world. ACLED is a registered non-profit organisation with 501(c)(3) status in the United States. Limited raw data is freely available; the full dataset was shared with MIF by the source. Raw data for the selected variables from this

data publication can be found in the IIAG Excel and online data portals.

https://acleddata.com/

8. Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI), Bertelsmann Stiftung

The BTI analyses and evaluates whether and how developing countries and countries in transition are steering social change towards democracy and a market economy. Seventeen criteria are analysed over 137 countries through the biennial publication of two rankings (2006-2026): the Status Index, separated into Political Transformation and Economic Transformation, and the Governance Index. Raw data is freely available.

https://bti-project.org/en?&cb=00000

9. Child Mortality Estimates (CME), UN IGME

The CME database contains latest data on child mortality, maintained by UN IGME, with the goal to improve child mortality estimation, report on progress towards child survival goals, and enhance country capacity to produce timely and properly assessed estimated of child mortality. CME provides data for over 190 countries from 1990 to 2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://childmortality.org/

10. Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), AfDB

The AfDB's CPIA is a diagnostic tool that biennially assesses the quality of policies and the performance of institutional frameworks in African countries, covering the years 2004-2025. It measures the capacity of a country to support sustainable growth, poverty reduction, and the effective use of development assistance. Limited raw data is freely available; the full dataset was shared with MIF by the source. Raw data for the selected variables from this data publication can be found in the IIAG Excel and online data portals.

https://cpia.afdb.org/

11. Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), WB

The WB's CPIA rates 86 International Development Association (IDA)-eligible countries against a set of 16 criteria that represent the various policy and institutional arrangements of an effective poverty reduction and growth strategy. They are grouped in four dimensions: i) economic management, ii) structural policies, iii) policies for social inclusion and equity, and iv) public sector management and institutions. The CPIA covers the years 2005-2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://databank.worldbank.org/source/country-policy-and-institutional-assessment

12. Digital Society Survey (DSS), DSP & V-Dem Institute

The DSS, jointly designed and conducted by DSP and V-Dem, aims to answer some of the most important questions surrounding interactions between the internet and politics. Its 35 indicators evaluate 179 countries over the years 2000-2025 on the political environment of the internet and social media. Raw data is freely available.

https://digitalsocietyproject.org/

13. Economic Complexity Index (ECI), OEC

The OEC's ECI ranks countries by the diversity and sophistication of what they export. Countries that produce many different, specialised, hard-to-replicate products score higher, reflecting the depth of productive knowledge embedded in their economy. The ECI provides data for 137 countries from 1998-2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://oec.world/en/rankings/eci/hs6/hs96?tab=ranking

14. E-Government Development Index (EGDI), UNDESA

UNDESA's EGDI measures the scope and quality of all 193 UN member states' e-government services provision across five dimensions: i) institutional framework, ii) services provision, iii) content provision, iv) technology and v) e-participation. The index is published biennially and covers 2003-2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/About/Overview/-E-Government-Development-Index

15. Environmental Performance Index (EPI), Yale & Columbia

The EPI provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world from 1990-2025. Using 58 performance indicators across 11 issue categories, the EPI ranks over 200 countries and territories on their progress toward improving environmental health, protecting ecosystem vitality, and mitigating climate change. Raw data is freely available.

https://epi.yale.edu/

16. Executive Opinion Survey (EOS), WEF

The WEF's EOS provides a yearly assessment of critical aspects of socio-economic development by business executives, including dynamisms and capacity of the private and public sectors, risk management, employment, innovation, and industrial policy. The survey is conducted over 120 countries from 1979-2025. Raw data is not freely available; the full dataset was shared with MIF by the source. Raw data for the selected variables from this data project can be found in the IIAG Excel and online data portals.

https://centres.weforum.org/centre-for-new-economy-and-society/executive-opinion-survey

17. Family Planning Estimates and Projections, UNDESA

With the Family Planning Estimates and Projections, UNDESA's Population Division provides a systematic and comprehensive series of annual, model-based estimates and projections of key family planning indicators for women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years). The dataset covers 200 countries and territories and the years 1970-2030 for married women, and 1990-2030 for all women (married and unmarried). Raw data is freely available.

https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/data/family-planning-indicators

18. FAOSTAT, FAO

The FAO's statistical database FAOSTAT provides access to food and agriculture data, including crop, livestock and forestry sub-sectors, for over 245 countries and territories from 1961 to the most recent year available. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home

19. Financial Access Survey (FAS), IMF

The IMF's FAS dataset includes annual statistics on financial service access and usage, spanning 163 economies across 2004-2024. Selected data series are disaggregated by sex (male and female), the type of financial service provider (e.g., commercial banks, credit unions, and microfinance institutions) and type of customer (e.g., households and SMEs). Raw data is freely available.

https://data.imf.org/en/datasets/IMF.STA:FAS

20. Fragile States Index (FSI), FFP

The FSI, published by the FFP, is an annual (2006-2025) ranking of up to 179 countries assessing the different economic, political, and social risks and pressures they face that impact their levels of fragility. Raw data is freely available.

https://fragilestatesindex.org/

21. Freedom in the World, Freedom House

Since 1973, Freedom House has assessed the condition of political rights and civil liberties around the world in its annual Freedom in the World report. The report, composed of numerical ratings and supporting descriptive texts, assesses 208 countries and territories through a combination of on-the-ground research, local consultations, and information from media, NGOs, governments and other sources. Raw data is not freely available; the full dataset was shared with MIF by the source. Raw data for the selected variables from this data project can be found in the IIAG Excel and online data portals.

https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world

22. Global Broadband Pricing League Table, Cable

The Global Broadband Pricing League Table, published by Cable, measures average broadband package prices in 223 countries and territories between 2018 and 2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.cable.co.uk/broadband/pricing/worldwide-comparison/

23. Global Burden of Disease (GBD), IHME

The IHME's GBD is the most comprehensive worldwide observational epidemiological study to date. The dataset quantifies premature death and disability from more than 450 diseases, injuries, and risk factors for 204 countries and territories from 1990-2023. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.healthdata.org/research-analysis/gbd

24. Global Findex Database, WB

The WB's Global Findex Database is the world's only demand-side survey on financial inclusion and provides insight into how adults around the world access and use financial services, including digital payments, savings, and borrowing behaviour for 141 economies from 2011 to 2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/globalfindex

25. Global Forest Watch (GFW), WRI

The WRI's GFW is an online platform that provides data and tools for monitoring forests in over 200 economies for the years 2000-2025. GFW allows anyone to access near real-time information about where and how forests are changing around the world. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.globalforestwatch.org/

26. Global Health Observatory (GHO), WHO

The GHO is the WHO's data repository for its 194 member states, ranging from 1960 to the most recent year available. It provides access to over 1000 health topics indicators including mortality and burden of diseases, non-communicable diseases and risk factors, epidemic prone diseases, health systems, environmental health, violence and injuries, and health equity. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.who.int/data/gho

27. Global Internal Displacement Database (GIDD), IDMC

The IDMC's GIDD is an interactive platform providing comprehensive information on internal displacement worldwide. It covers all countries and territories for which IDMC has obtained data on situations of internal displacement for the years 2009-2025 for internal displacement due to conflict, and 2008-2025 for internal displacement due to natural disasters. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.internal-displacement.org/database

28. Government Revenue Dataset (GRD), UNU-WIDER

UNU-WIDER's GRD presents government revenue and tax trends over time and allows for analysis at the country, regional or cross-country level for over 190 countries for the years 1980-2023. Where possible, figures are expressed both inclusive and exclusive of natural resource revenues, which helps to overcome a major obstacle to cross-country comparisons in existing data sources. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.wider.unu.edu/project/grd-government-revenue-dataset

29. Housing Finance in Africa Yearbook, CAHF

The Housing Finance in Africa Yearbook is an annual publication by the CAHF, produced with contributions from over 70 local experts across the continent, aimed at providing developers, investors, researchers, and governments with up-to-date insights on the housing finance sector. Data is available for most African countries from 2010-2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://housingfinanceafrica.org/resources/yearbook/

30. Human Capital Index Plus (HCI+), WB

The HCI+ provides comparable data of how investments in people translate into future productivity. It measures human capital, i.e. the health, skills, and knowledge people develop over the course of their lives. The HCI+ has replaced the HCI and extended

its horizon to age 65 and added tertiary education, on-the-job learning and employment indicators. Data currently covers over 160 economies for the years 2020 and 2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://data360.worldbank.org/en/dataset/WB_HCIP

31. ILOSTAT, ILO

The ILO's central statistics database ILOSTAT is the global reference for international annual labour statistics, providing data for over 190 member states and territories, dating back to 1990 and extending projections through to 2050. Raw data is freely available.

https://ilostat.ilo.org/

32. Integrated Index for Postal Development (2IPD), UPU

The UPU's 2IPD is a composite index providing an overview of postal development around the world, with over 170 countries covered from 2017 up to 2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.upu.int/en/universal-postal-union/activities/research-publications/integrated-index-for-postal-development

33. IPU Parline, IPU

IPU Parline is the global reference source on national parliaments, containing information provided directly by over 190 national parliaments on their structure, composition, working methods, and activities. Data on women in parliaments is provided annually since 1945, and data on age brackets in parliaments since 2008. Raw data is freely available.

https://data.ipu.org/

34. ITU DataHub, ITU

The ITU tracks countries' digital transformation with the ITU DataHub, featuring hundreds of ICT indicators on connectivity, markets, affordability, trust governance, and sustainability for up to 236 economies and spanning the years 2000-2026. Raw data is freely available.

https://datahub.itu.int/

35. ITUC Global Rights Index, ITUC

The ITUC documents violations of internationally recognised collective labour rights by governments and employers. The ITUC Global Rights Index methodology is grounded in standards of fundamental rights at work, in particular the right to freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining and the right to strike. Since 2014, questionnaires are sent to up to 340 national unions in 169 countries to report violations of workers' rights by indicating relevant details. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.ituc-csi.org/global-rights-index?lang=en

36. Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME), UNICEF & WHO & WB

The JME, released by a UNICEF, World Bank and WHO inter-agency team, are biennial estimates for child stunting, overweight, underweight, wasting, and severe wasting of children under five years. Estimates are provided for over 190 countries for the years 2000 to 2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme/

37. Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), UNICEF & WHO

The JMP, jointly managed by UNICEF and the WHO, is the custodian of global data on water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), producing WASH indicator estimates at household, school, and healthcare facility level around the world. Data is provided for over 200 countries and territories for the years 2000 to 2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://washdata.org/

38. Open Budget Survey (OBS), IBP

The IBP's OBS evaluates national budget accountability across three dimensions: transparency of budget information, opportunities for meaningful public participation, and the effectiveness of legislative and audit oversight. Data is produced

biennially for the years 2006-2025 for up to 125 countries. Raw data is freely available.

https://internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey/rankings

39. Open Data Inventory (ODIN), ODW

The ODIN assesses the coverage and openness of official statistics to help identify gaps, promote open data policies, improve access, and encourage dialogue between national statistical offices (NSOs) and data users. Data is available from 2015 to 2024 across up to 197 countries. Raw data is freely available.

https://odin.opendatawatch.com/

40. Organised Crime Index (OCI), ENACT Africa

The OCI is a tool designed to measure levels of organised crime in a country and assess their resilience to organised-criminal activity. Data is produced biennially, covering all African countries across the years 2019-2025. Raw data is freely available.

https://africa.ocindex.net/

41. Political Terror Scale (PTS)

The PTS measures the level of political violence, human rights abuses and terror experienced by a country in a particular year based on a five-level terror scale. Data is provided on an annual basis for over 180 countries, dating from 1976 to the most recent year. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.politicalterrorscale.org/

42. Refugee Data Finder, UNHCR

The UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder contains information about forcibly displaced populations such as refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people as well as stateless people, most of who have never been displaced, for more than 195 countries and territories from 1951 to 2025. The database also reflects the different types of solutions for displaced populations such as repatriation or resettlement. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/

43. Rule of Law Index, WJP

The WJP's Rule of Law Index is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law. Covering 143 countries and jurisdictions from 2009 to 2025, the index relies on national surveys of more than 215,000 households and 4,100 legal practitioners and experts to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived around the world. Limited raw data is freely available; a selected dataset was shared with MIF by the source. Raw data for the selected variables from this data publication can be found in the IIAG Excel and online data portals.

https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/

44. Rural Sector Performance Assessment (RSPA), IFAD

IFAD's RSPA measures the quality of pro-poor rural development and rural transformation policies and institutions, covering up to 80 countries for the years 2004-2024. Raw data is not freely available; the full dataset was shared with MIF by the source. Raw data for the selected variables from this data project can be found in the IIAG Excel and online data portals.

https://www.ifad.org/en/

45. State of Global Air (SoGA), HEI & IHME

The SoGA report and interactive website bring into one place a comprehensive analysis of the levels and trends in air quality and health around the world. The data is produced annually by the HEI and IHME for more than 200 countries and territories from 1990 to 2023. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.stateofglobalair.org/

46. Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI), WB

The SPI provides an open-source framework for assessing the performance of countries' statistical systems across five pillars: i) data use, ii) data services, iii) data products, iv) data sources, and v) data infrastructure. It evolved from the previous Statistical Capacity Index series and data is available for over 180 economies for 2016-2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/statistical-performance-indicators

47. Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI), WEF

The WEF's TTDI benchmarks and measures the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable and resilient development of the travel and tourism sector, which in turn contributes to the development of a country. It is an evolution of the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index covers 120 countries for the years 2017-2024 (biennially). Raw data is freely available.

https://www.weforum.org/publications/series/travel-tourism-development-index/

48. Trends in Maternal Mortality, UN MMEIG

The UN MMEIG, an inter-agency group comprised of WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA, produces comparable global, regional and country-level estimates of maternal mortality for the purposes of global monitoring, available for over 200 countries and territories for the years 2000-2023. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240108462

49. UNCTADstat, UNCTAD

UNCTADstat provides comprehensive statistics on international trade, investment, and development. It offers harmonised, regularly updated data from economies around the world, with a special focus on developing nations, covering over 190 countries and territories from as early as 1967 to the most recent year. Raw data is freely available.

https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html

50. UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS.stat), UNESCO

UNESCO's UIS.stat is a source for cross-nationally comparable statistics on education, science and technology, culture and communication. Enrolment indicators go as far back as 1990 and cover up to the most recent year for over 200 countries and territories. Raw data is freely available.

https://uis.unesco.org/

51. Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), Uppsala University

The UCDP is the world's main provider of data on organised violence and the oldest ongoing data collection project for civil war, with its time series extending as far back as 1946 to the present year for all countries and territories worldwide. Its definition of armed conflict has become the global standard of how conflicts are systematically defined and studied. Raw data is freely available.

https://ucdp.uu.se/

52. Urban Indicators Database, UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat's Urban Indicators Database aims to make cities and human settlements more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by developing global standards and methodologies, as well as collecting and sharing data on urban indicators. The database contains 11 datasets on housing, population, open spaces, transport, service access, city prosperity, economy, environment, spatial growth, social inclusion, and monitoring. Raw data is freely available.

https://data.unhabitat.org/

53. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), V-Dem Institute

The Varieties of Democracy project maintains the world's most comprehensive and detailed democracy ratings. The V-Dem dataset measures over 500 indicators of electoral, liberal, majoritarian, consensual, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian democracies annually from 1789 to the present year for all countries of the world. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.v-dem.net/data/

54. Women in Politics, IPU & UN Women

The IPU's Women in Politics map dataset presents global country rankings and the proportion of women in executive and government positions. Data is available for over 190 countries from 1997 to 2025. Raw data is freely available

https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/infographics/2025-03/women-in-politics-2025

55. Women, Business and the Law (WBL), WB

Launched in 2010 and covering every year until 2026, the WBL dataset provides comparable data on how laws, regulations, and policies shape women's economic opportunities and private sector development across 190 economies to guide countries in identifying opportunities for reforms that unlock women's economic potential. Raw data is freely available.

https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl

56. World Development Indicators (WDI), WB

First published in 1978, the WDI is the world's primary collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognised international sources. The database contains almost 1,500 time series indicators for economies of 266 countries, territories, and country groupings, with data for many indicators spanning 1960-2024. Raw data is freely available.

https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators

57. World Inequality Database (WID)

WID, initially created in 2011 and updated annually, provides open access to the most extensive data on the historical evolution of economic inequality and the distribution of wealth and income. The database covers 216 countries and territories through 2024, with some indicators going as far back as 1820. Raw data is freely available.

https://wid.world/

58. World Press Freedom Index (WPFI), RSF

The WPFI, published annually by RSF, compares the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories for the years 2002 to 2026. Raw data is freely available.

https://rsf.org/en/index

59. Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), WB

Since 1999, the WGI provide annual composite indicators summarising six dimensions of governance across more than 200 economies from 1996 to 2024: i) voice and accountability, ii) political stability, iii) government effectiveness, iv) regulatory quality, v) rule of law, and vi) control of corruption. The dataset draws on perception data from 35 cross-country sources, including household surveys, firm surveys, and expert assessments. Raw data is freely available.

https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators

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